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COMOR D-13/26

25X1

13 November 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

SUBJECT: Satellite Reconnaissance

REFERENCE:

25X1

The attached paper is forwarded to you for your information
and for our joint consideration in preparation for the Board of the
paper on Long-Range Requirements for

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NRO Review Completed.

Executive Secretary
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Attachment:
Subject paper.

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MEMORANDUM FOR Chairman, COMOR

SUBJECT: Satellite Reconnaissance Requirements

1. Reference is made to the 28 October USIB meeting. At that time, I indicated the intent to provide you some personal, informal views on the above subject.

2. The thoughts expressed in this memorandum pertain to photographic satellite reconnaissance. They are oriented toward (S)NRO "needs" -- i. e., the kinds and forms of information that would allow the (S)NRO to do a better job of planning, programming, research and development, and operations. I recognize that it might not always be possible to package requirements in the manner best suited to the (S)NRO.

3. The (S)NRO needs guidance and instruction from the USIB in four distinct areas. All are often referred to as "requirements." They are:

a. Estimated quantitative and technical requirements for a period beginning at least three to four years in the future. These rather general statements of requirements are needed to guide planning and programming for research and development on new techniques and systems. While these requirements should not be impractical statements of desires, neither should they be inhibited by too narrow a view of feasibility. Here the (S)NRO can provide background which the COMOR needs by forecasting advances in technology and/or estimating the feasibility of meeting requirements.

b. A forecast of the quantitative coverage and frequency thereof required from systems currently in the program for the period one to two years in the future. This is needed to plan the procurement of operational hardware and the acquisition of people and facility resources. Such requirements must, of course, be stated in the general context of the technical and operational limitations of existing systems.

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c. Guidance (requirements) for the detailed planning and conduct of missions in the weeks and months immediately ahead. I believe this is more commonly referred to as tasking rather than requirements. A great deal of detailed targeting and priority considerations is required on the part of COMOR. Further, frequent informal exchanges between COMOR (representing USIB) and the (S) NRO Operations Center are required for effective operations.

d. Guidance and suggestions on possible changes and improvements in current hardware, operations, format, etc., that could make the (S) NRO product more useful to the intelligence community. These "requirements" could be short-or long-term in nature and might apply to any or all of the preceding.

4. Next, there follow some views on search, surveillance, and target priority groupings:

a. Search: Statements of requirements should include the frequency and extent of search coverage required. These must be made for specific countries and/or areas in the world. For example, a requirement might be imposed to search at least 90 per cent of the Sino-Soviet Bloc each six months. Stereo vs mono coverage needs should be stated. As a matter of interest, the 2 April 1964 statement of requirements for GOLDEN TREE coverage of Cuba (USIB-D-41.14/124) appears to be a particularly good example of the kind of statement most useful to the (S) NRO.

b. Surveillance: Important individual targets (for example, Lan Chou) and various categories of targets (for example, ICBM complexes) must be identified for continued surveillance at specified periods. For long-term requirements, these estimated requirements must probably be expressed in general totals (as extensions of current needs). A statement of stereo vs mono coverage acceptability is needed.

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c. Target Priorities: In addition to listing individual targets and grouping them into priority areas, it would also appear appropriate to sub-divide some of the existing categories. For example, all major airfields are listed in one category. Perhaps a number of these are essential to maintain BEAR AOB. If so, then the (S) NRO should be told to cover all of them on a single mission at given frequencies. Various other sub-divisions of target categories should be identified that can tell the story of enemy accomplishments or intentions in a particular field.

d. Indications (Crisis Management) Targets:
The COMOR needs to identify and maintain, in a current status, lists of indicator targets for various crisis levels. Various lists of targets need to be prepared, based on potential 1-, 2-, 3-, and 4-day satellite coverage (for example, a 1-day mission could only sample a few targets in each of several categories). These lists of targets must represent a realistic compromise between desires and actual operational capabilities.



5. To establish and keep current the several types and categories of requirements needed by the (S) NRO is indeed a monumental task for the COMOR. Be assured that the (S) NRO Staff will be pleased to help in any way possible.

/S/

James T. Stewart
Brigadier General, USAF
Director, (S) NRO Staff

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